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Chief, St/I/R

8 October 1956

THRU : Chief, D/S
Chief, S/ST

Evaluation of U.S. Military Attache Reports

REF : St/I Office Notice No. 87, 4 October 1956.

1. As requested in the referenced notice, the following is a qualitative assessment of the value of Military Attache reporting to this branch's intelligence mission:

a. Reporting from the Sino-Soviet Bloc

Attache reporting from ALUSNA Warsaw on Polish merchant shipping has been of potential operational use to this branch and has provided useful background information. This monthly series transmits copies of Polish Ocean Lines voyage schedules which also contain a current list of Polish Ocean Lines agents throughout the world. The time-lag in dissemination prevents the most effective operational use of the schedule information. (ALUSNA Warsaw IR 248-56 of 9 July, transmitting the July schedules, was received by S/ST on 2 October.)

b. Exporting from non-Bloc areas related to the Bloc

This category of Attache reporting has been of the most value operationally, particularly Navy's NIRM-2 series which reports movements of merchant vessels connected with East-West and intra-Bloc trade. Other Navy Attache report-

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25X1X4

ASTALUSNA Hongkong's reporting of recent illegal lube-oil shipments presumably diverted to Communist China. Reports from Attaches of all three military services have provided background information useful to our intelligence mission.

c. Reporting from and on non-Bloc areas

Since this branch's interest is centered upon strategic trade with the Sino-Soviet Bloc, reporting in this category has been only of marginal interest.

2. Reports received from other military sources such as headquarters units and special intelligence units have not been considered in the above evaluation.

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THRU : Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR
: Chief, Economic Research Area
: Chief, Services Division
: Chief, Trade Branch

5 October 1956

Evaluation of U.S. Military Attache Reports

1. Military attache reports from the Sino-Soviet Bloc and from non-Bloc areas dealing with relations with the Bloc have made a significant contribution to our data on Bloc trade and finance. Particularly important have been reports from Middle East attaches on arms deals, with the Bloc. In addition, attache reports have provided considerable detail on trade agreements, credits, conferences, etc. involving Bloc countries. At the same time, they are not nearly as important to our intelligence mission as foreign service or CIA reporting.
2. Attache reporting from and on non-Bloc areas is not pertinent to the intelligence mission of this branch.
3. Joint [redacted] reports are used extensively by this branch, but it is assumed that the sections related to economic activities are prepared by the Foreign Service. The military parts of these reports, however, are a source of data on arms deals involving the Bloc.

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